FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT

OF THE

NORTHERN CIRCLE, BOMBAY PRESIDENCY,

FOR THE OFFICIAL YEAR 1886-87.

INTRODUCTION.

1. The selection of lands for forest reservation, and the enquiry into, determination, and settlement of notified forest lands, in the matter of rights affecting them, has been continued during the year by Forest Demarcation and Settlement Officers specially employed for these purposes; 11 such special officers have been on deputation in the several divisions of the Northern Circle during the year; and in some cases these works have been carried out by local revenue officers in addition to their own revenue and other duties. The changes which have affected the forest areas exhibit the following results :—

	Reserved Forest.	Protected Forest.	Total.
	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.	Sq.m. a.
At commencement of the year	7,016 367	1,013 102	8,029 469
At close of the year	7,231 104	1,080 301	8,311 405
Increase ...	214 377	67 199	281 576

2. The settlement of the greater portion of the reserves, which were provisionally notified before the commencement of the year, has been completed.

3. A very considerable length of forest boundaries has been defined upon the ground in the several divisions; 18,383 special forest boundary-marks having been constructed during the year at a cost of Rs. 6,713-10-0.

4. The Working-Plans Division has done much work in the Thána Collectorate, determining and defining the boundaries of the sanctioned "Reserved Forests," differentiating all the forest reservations, and locating and marking out upon the ground the several coupes for the year 1887-88, and estimating their contents and value.

5. The survey of the forests of the Thána Collectorate on the scale of 8 inches to the mile was commenced by a Topographical Survey Party belonging to the Government of India's Survey, and $52\frac{4}{5}$ square miles were surveyed during the season.

6. There has been no change in the composition of the divisions comprising the Northern Circle; a few villages with some forest have been transferred from the Ahmednagar to the Poona Division.

7. The names of superior forest officers, who have been conducting the administration of the forests during the year of this report, with the stations they occupied, are given below.

NORTHERN CIRCLE.

Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, throughout the year.

No.	Forest Divisions.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	Designation.	From	To	Remarks.
1	North Thána ...	Mr. A. D. Wilkins ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer ...	1st April 1886 ..	31st March 1887.	
		,, G. F R. Blackwell ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Assistant do. ...	Do. ...	Do	
		,, L. B. Oke	Acting do. do. ...	Do. do. ...	Do. ...	28th June 1886.	
		,, N. B. Oke	Sub-Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade.	Do. do. ...	29th June 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
2	South Thána ...	Mr. S. Hornidge	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer ...	1st April 1886 ...	Do.	
		,, R. H. Madan... ...	Acting do. 3rd Grade ...	Assistant do.	Do. ...	31st August 1886.	
		,, G. K. Shahane ...	Sub-Assistant do. 2nd Grade ...		6th November 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
3	East Khándesh ...	Mr. C. Greatheed... ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	Do. do. ...	1st April 1886 ...	Do.	
4	West Khándesh ...	Mr. H. Mainwaring ...	Do. 3rd Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer ...	Do. ...	Do.	
		,, W. G. Clabby ...	Acting Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	23rd May 1886.	
		,, G. L. Gibson ...	Deputy Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	Do. ...	24th May 1886 ...	30th March 1887.	
		,, L. D. Joshi	Sub-Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade	Assistant do. ...	31st March 1887 ...	31st March 1887.	
5	Násik	Mr. W. G. Betham ...	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer ...	1st April 1886 ...	Do.	
		,, R. H. Madan... ...	Acting Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	4th October 1886.	
		,, W. G. Betham ...	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	Do. ...	5th October 1886 ...	5th November 1886.	
		,, L. B. Oke	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Assistant do. ...	6th November 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
		,, W. A. Wallinger ...	Sub do. do.	Do. do. ...	29th June 1886 ...	16th November 1886.	
6	Ahmednagar ...	Mr. R. S. F. Fagan ...	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer ...	17th November 1886 .	31st March 1887.	
		,, H. Mainwaring ...	Do. 3rd Grade ...	Do. ...	1st April 1886 ...	23rd May 1886.	
7	Poona	Mr. R. C. Wroughton ...	Do. 2nd Grade ...	Do. ...	24th May 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
		,, W. R. Gaunde ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Assistant do. ...	1st April 1886 ...	Do.	
8	Satára	Mr. G. K. Betham ...	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer...	Do. ...	Do.	
		,, G. S. Hinge	Acting Sub-Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Assistant do. ...	Do. ...	Do.	
		,, G. R. Mahajan ...	Sub-Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade.	Do. do. ...	Do. ...	30th June 1886.	
9	Sholápur	Mr. G. P. Millet	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade ...	Divisional Forest Officer...	1st July 1886 ...	9th March 1887.	
10	Surat	Mr. F. Gleadow	Deputy Conservator, 4th Grade ...		1st April 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
11	Panch Mahals ...	Mr. H. W. Keys	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	Do.	
		,, R. H. Madan... ...	Acting Assistant Conservator, 3rd Grade.	Do. ...	Do. ...	1st September 1886.	
		,, H. W. Keys	Assistant Conservator, 1st Grade ...	Do. ...	2nd September 1886...	3rd October 1886.	
12	Working Plans ...	Mr. T. B. Fry	Deputy Conservator, 3rd Grade ...	Do. ...	4th October 1886 ...	31st March 1887.	
				Do. ...	1st April 1886 ...	Do.	

8. The subordinate protective and office establishments have continued of the same numerical strength as they were at the close of last year. There were then 57 cases of forest offences to be tried and disposed of; 839 new cases appeared upon the registers during the year; 811 cases affecting 1,928 individuals were tried; convictions obtained in 533 cases concerning 1,250 individuals; and acquittals in 278 cases affecting 678 individuals; and 85 cases remained over at the end of the year.

9. 154 cases of forest offences committed in "Protected Forests" and in proposed "Reserved Forests," provisionally notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act, were disposed of by Assistant Collectors, under Section 43 of the Land Revenue Code, in the Thána Division. Divisional Forest Officers have exercised with freedom and judgment their powers of compounding offences under Section 67 of the Forest Act, and 4,305 cases of compounding have occurred.

10. Fire-conservancy maintained by the vigilance of forest guards and the good-will and co-operation of the population of forest villages has been successful, although the area traversed by fire is larger in some divisions this year than last. In the Thána divisions the improvement in this respect is marked.

11. The financial results of the year have not been so satisfactory as could be wished. The revenue has declined from Rs. 10,37,296 of the previous year to Rs. 9,13,100.

CHAPTER I.

AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

1.—AREA AND BOUNDARIES.

12. The selection of forest land or waste land, the property of Government or over which the Government has proprietary rights, or to the whole or any part of the forest produce of which Government is entitled, in order that such lands might be constituted either "Reserved Forests" or "Protected Forests" according to their circumstances and surrounding conditions, has been continued during the year by a number of special officers, designated "Demarcation and Settlement Officers", appointed by Government for this duty. The changes which have affected the forest areas appear in the following table:—

No.	Division.	Area on 1st April 1886.				Added during the year.				Disforested or excluded by Rectification of Areas.				Area on the 31st March 1887.			
		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.		Reserved.		Protected.	
		Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.	Square Miles.	Acres.
1	North Thána	263	331	300	621	21	209	..	..	..	4	2	252	284	536	298	369
2	South Thána	282	1	353	80	43	665	..	..	..	171	..	30	325	395	353	50
3	East Khándesh	668	76	153	514	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	207	668	76	104	307
4	West Khándesh	1,216	493	194	617	..	348	..	..	1	108	..	..	1,216	93	194	617
5	Násik	1,083	195	..	..	29	24	..	..	1	310	..	..	1,110	549	..	..
6	Ahmednagar	805	88	10	173	54	299	1	58	23	134	..	117	836	253	11	114
7	Poona	711	19	..	..	14	94	..	..	3	92	..	..	722	21	..	..
8	Sátára	641	316	..	17	19	484	..	..	1	400	..	..	659	400	..	17
9	Sholápur	167	306	..	..	66	301	..	..	1	20	..	..	232	587	..	..
10	Surat	969	124	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	969	124	..	..
11	Panch Mahals	208	338	..	..	1	261	118	107	4	329	..	..	295	270	118	107
	Total ..	7,016	367	1,013	102	251	25	119	165	36	288	51	606	7,231	104	1,080	301

13. Of the area reduced during the course of the year from "Reserved Forests" which at the commencement amounted to 7,016 squares miles 367 acres, 17 square miles 520 acres were disforested by notification issued under Section 26 of the Forest Act, and the balance, 18 square miles 408 acres, represents rectifications of errors either discovered in the forest registers or in the figures of the old survey by the revision survey when its operations have been completed. In the same way, of the reductions in the "Protected Forests", 50 square miles 203 acres are due to absolute exclusions of lands from protected conservation, some of the lands have been converted into Reserved Forest, and 1 square mile 403 acres to corrections of mistakes in figures. Of the areas added during the